

SUITS + COATS

DRAWER 29

Clothing

71.2009.025.011111



# Curios and Relics

## Clothing

### Suits & Coats

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

**HE HAS A COAT  
LINCOLN WORE**

**FRANK LOGAN, CHICAGO,  
HAS HIS SHAWL AND  
MANY INTERESTING ME-  
MENTOES.**

Frank G. Logan of Chicago has some of the most valuable personal effects of Lincoln in his possession.

He has the old fawn colored shawl Lincoln wore to protect his ears and shoulders. It has never been donned by another since Lincoln laid it away.

Mr. Logan also has the black frock coat Lincoln wore when assassinated. The last photograph signed by Lincoln just before he entered the carriage to go to Ford's theater is also in the possession of Mr. Logan. This signature is believed to be the last words penned by Lincoln.

A cane carved out of the old Merrimac gunboat and presented to Lincoln by New York volunteers of the civil war is also owned by Mr. Logan. Other mementoes in this collection are an old pocket knife with Lincoln's initials, a gold locket containing a strand of Lincoln's hair, etc.

There will be a big celebration Feb. 12 on the farm near Hodgenville, Ky., on which Lincoln was born. The old cabin in which his birth took place, exhibited a home coming week in Louisville, is now to be put back on the farm again.

The Journal's Lincoln contest stories will soon be published and many and interesting ones will be included.

2/2/09

Professor Walter G. Groves, of Carlinville, was a morning caller. He is a grandson of Mrs. Mary Miller, who made Lincoln's first suit of clothes in Illinois. The story is as follows: When Thomas Lincoln and his son, Abraham, came to Illinois from Indiana in 1830, they built a log cabin on Section 28, Harriestown township, on the river. His grandmother, Mrs. Mary Miller, lived a few farms away. She had sheep, carded the wool, spun the yarn, wove the cloth and made clothing for a few of the neighbors. Young Lincoln solicited her to make a pair of pantaloons, for which he agreed to split 1,100 rails. When the package came, it also contained a waistcoat. Lincoln questioned her and she said, "I saw that you needed a coat, too, and I made it for you." Mr. Lincoln appreciated the thoughtfulness of the noble woman and split 2,500 rails all told for his first suit of clothes in Illinois. Some of the historians give the name as Nancy but her name was Mary Miller. Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Woodward, of Cambridge, Mass., were late callers and showed interest. They were particularly enthused over the Longfellow collection as well as the Lincoln exhibits.

S. NGFIELD ILL JOURNAL  
V. FEBRUARY 23, 1930.

## Lincoln Tomb Visitors

BY H. W. FAY, CUSTODIAN



7

Scranton Pa  
Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 1932

Dr. Louis d. Warren,  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir, -

Recently I read  
an article in a Phila paper  
written by you on the life  
of "Abraham Lincoln" also that  
you are director of the  
Lincoln Historical Research  
Foundation.

May I ask if in  
any way you could help  
or advise me how to -

uncle Capt Jameson  
(commander-in-chief of  
Lincoln's escort) by  
Mrs. Lincoln,

They are a very  
interesting collection and  
in perfect condition and  
I am willing to sell  
them at a very moderate  
price.

If you wish I  
would be very glad to  
send these relics to you  
for your inspection or  
consideration and all



dispose of two Lincoln  
relics which I have in  
my possession, these  
relics I inherited from  
my family just recently  
and as I am at present  
unemployed among the  
unemployed I am  
compelled to sell them  
at once.

The relics are  
namely a cane and  
a dress coat worn  
by Mr. Lincoln and  
presented to my great

the data I have concerning  
them.

Much as I would  
like to place these relics  
in a museum (where they  
belong) I am not in a  
position to do so as I  
must realize something  
from them.

Thanking you for  
anything you may be able  
to do or suggest, I am  
very truly yours  
C. S. Jones

520 Clay Ave  
Scranton, Pa  
apt #105

PHONE  
CHESTNUT 5670



304-5-6 COMMERCIAL BUILDING  
SIXTH AND OLIVE STREETS

LINCOLN NATIONAL  
MAIL  
ST. LOUIS, MO. DEC 9 - 1940  
RECEIVED DEC 10 1940  
Answered  
LIFE INSURANCE CO.

Lincoln Life Insurance Co.  
Ft Wayne Ind.

Dear Sirs.

I have a coat worn by Abraham Lincoln and Mr. Monte Blue of Hollywood informs me that you would probably be interested in it.

However if so, I can send you a picture of him having it on in 1864, or if you have anyone here would like to see it I will be pleased to show it to him.

Or I could ship it to you for inspection but would have to be assured of its proper care. I exhibited it at Tailors convention but in some cases it was fingered to much so would not do so, <sup>again</sup> unless it was inclosed in a glass case.

Awaiting your reply I remain  
Yours truly.

C.J. Nahlík



December 13, 1940

Mr. C. J. Nahlik  
304-5-6 Commercial Bldg.  
Sixth and Olive Sts.  
St. Louis, Mo.

My dear Mr. Nahlik:

We would not be interested in the acquisition of the coat which you mention as we are not in a position here to take care of curios. Several years ago we prepared a little article on the various pieces of wearing apparel which have been discovered and which I take the pleasure of enclosing.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM  
enc.

Director

PHONE  
CHESTNUT 5670



304-5-6 COMMERCIAL BUILDING  
SIXTH AND OLIVE STREETS

ST. LOUIS, MO., DEC 16 1940

Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne Ind.

Dear Sirs.

Your kind letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> also the Lincoln  
Love duly to hand for which I kindly thank you.

The inclosed picture of Lincoln  
standing up, is the one I referred to.

Thanking you again for your  
trouble in the matter with best wishes

I remain

Yours truly,

C.J. Nahlik



*Lincoln and his son,  
Tad.*

Photographs from the collection  
of H. W. Fay.

*Lincoln  
in  
1864.*

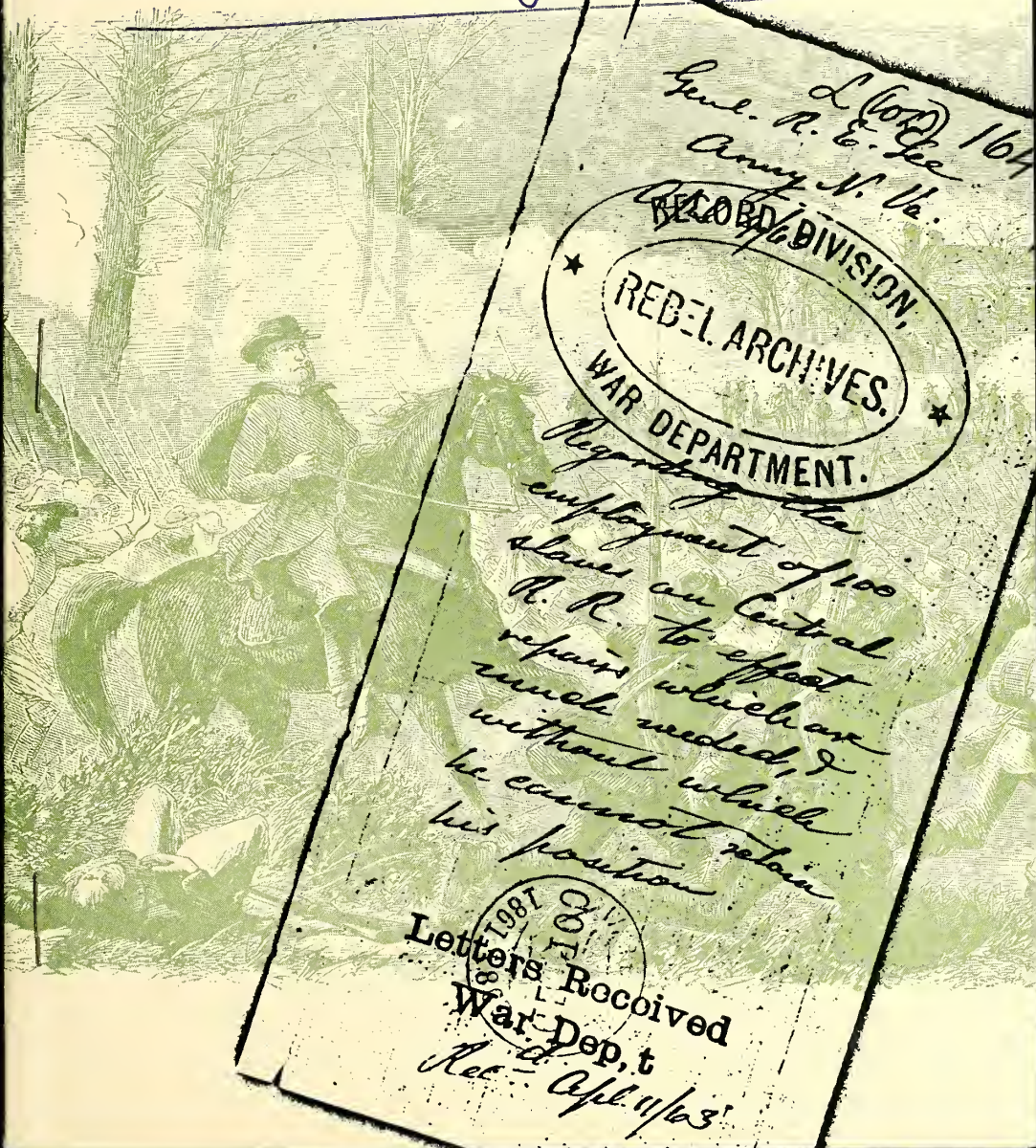


# Manuscripts

Published Quarterly by the Manuscript Society  
An International Organization of Autograph Collectors

Volume XIII—Number 3  
SUMMER 1961

## Lincoln's Suit of Clothes



Free A.C. Madison

J.

Miss A. McHenry Hoffman -  
care of David Hoffman -  
14 Connaught Square  
Hyde Park  
London - 1228

Franked cover of Dolly Madison.

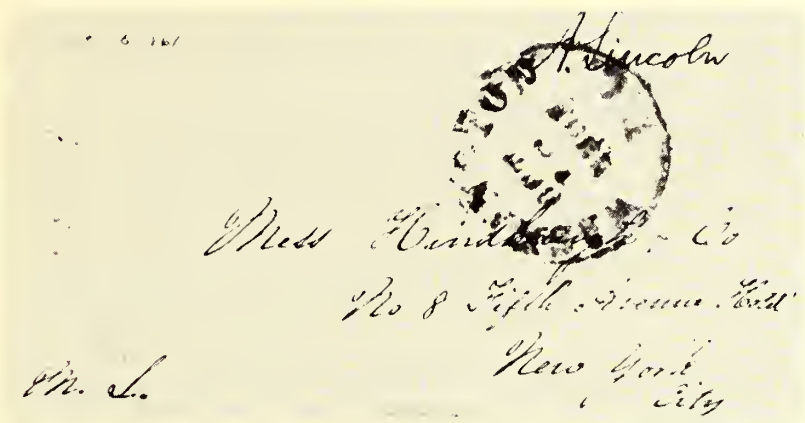


men—the fields were covered. Men of all nations mingled together to do honor to that day.” She continues, “Mr. Winthrop’s address, [prominent Senator] was thrilling, and brought tears to every eye.” She states, “I went with Aunt, [Dolly Madison] to the President’s, [James K. Polk] to see the procession, and afterwards with Mrs. Secretary Mason, [Secretary of the Navy, John Y. Mason], to the grounds, and heard from the carriage Mr. Mason’s address. Afterwards there was a review of the troops by President Polk.”

Miss Cutts goes on to say that “General Scott was unable to be present on account of illness, but this administration is treating him shamefully, throwing all manner of disgrace upon him,” and adds, “the administration has shown itself jealous of it’s heroes.” She also states, “we hope to have General Taylor as our next president.” (General Taylor did become the next (12th) President.

It is interesting to note that this letter describing the laying of the corner stone of the Washington Monument is dated 1848, and since Miss Cutts tells of the “fields” all crowded with spectators and listeners, and when it is realized that the Monument was not completed and dedicated until 1884, some 36 years later, the enormity of the work required on this structure is realized.





*Envelope free-franked by Abraham Lincoln while President.*



In the accompanying figure is shown an envelope, free-franked by Lincoln in the upper right-hand corner. It is postmarked Washington, D. C., October 16, 1861. The envelope is addressed in the hand writing of his wife, Mary Lincoln, to Messrs. Hindhaugh & Co., No. 8 Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York City. She has placed her initials, M. L., in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope. The letter, written by Mary Lincoln, enclosed in this free frank, is written seven months after the inauguration. It reads as follows:

Oct. 16th,  
Executive Mansion.

Mess. Hindaugh & Co.

It is now brought to our recollection that whilst passing through New York, last February, that Mr. Wood had the President measured for a suit of clothes—un-ordered and uncalled for, as he was well supplied with clothing. In the summer, I requested Mr. Wood, to select a summer suit for him, which he did and is on our bill.

I remain very Respectfully,

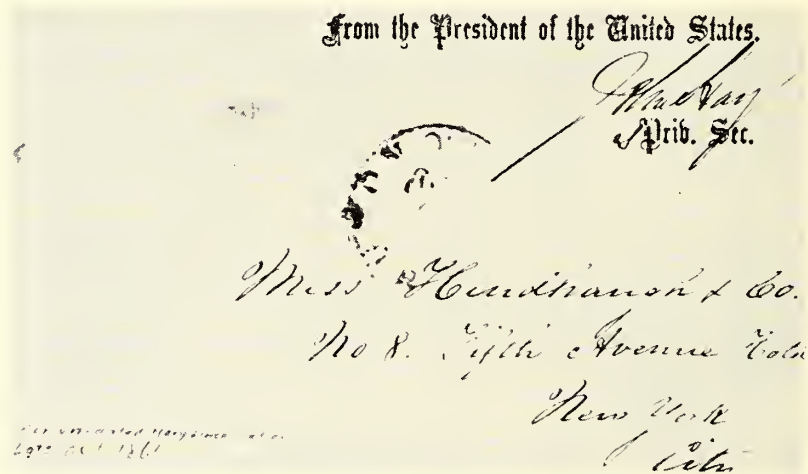
Mrs. A. Lincoln.

P.S.

I mention this to assure you, that if we had ordered the "said suit"—your bill would have been settled some time since.

M.

The Hindhaugh Company, in answering Mrs. Lincoln's letter above, probably suggested there was some misunderstanding in the matter. Mary Lincoln then answers them in a letter, enclosed in the envelope shown herewith, and this time she has John Hay, one of the Private Secretaries of President Lincoln, free frank the envelope. Mr. Hay has franked this cover underneath the printed words, "From The President Of The United States", "John Hay, Priv. Sec." It is



Envelope free-franked by John Hay, private secretary to President Lincoln.

postmarked the latter part of October 1861, and is again addressed in the hand of Mrs. Lincoln, to the Mess. Hindhaugh & Co., New York City. The letter reads as follows:

Mess. Hindhaugh & Co.

Gentlemen:

There is no misunderstanding in the matter. Mr. Wood, without any order or unsolicited, had Mr. L. measured, for a suit of clothes. Of course, it was not supposed, they were a present from you but Wood mentioned, that they were to be presented to the President—and nothing more was thought of it, until your bill was presented. Mr. Wood was requested to select the summer suit.

I remain very respectfully,

Mary Lincoln.

Mr. Wood, to whom Mrs. Lincoln refers in the above letters, was Mr. William S. Wood, a private detective. He accompanied Mr. Lin-

coln on his trips, and was with him when he journeyed from Springfield, Illinois, to Washington. Mr. Wood probably surmised that something was under discussion about the suit the President wore for his inauguration, and he writes the following letter to the tailors:

Washington City, D. C.  
Tuesday 19th Mch, 1861.

Messrs. W. Hindhaugh & Co.,  
Gentlemen:

I have the pleasure of informing you that the suit of clothes you made for the President, was worn by him at his inauguration on the 4th inst. and gave him such entire satisfaction that he wore it at the ball on the evening of that day. I give you this information thinking that it might give you pleasure, as well as to serve to correct any erroneous impressions which rumor may have created.

Very respectfully yours,  
Wm. S. Wood

The above letter from Mr. Wood is enclosed in another free franked envelope, this time franked by another of Lincoln's private secretaries, John G. Nicolay.

These letters and free franks of the Lincoln items disclosing interesting contents, again illustrate how much more valuable the franks become when they contain such personal matters of a great man and his wife. We too, wonder whether Lincoln's suit was ever paid for, since—being so seriously concerned with winning a war—he had little time to think of mundane matters.

#### VARIETIES AND SPECIALTIES IN FRANKS

There are some specialized frank collectors who go after the unusual in franks. For instance, in the early days if a government official having the franking privilege happened to be in a large city such as New York, a local firm was sometimes used to take the letter from the franker to the post office. To cover this, private companies placed a stamp or a "Local" on the envelope for this service. Thus some few franks are found with a "Local" stamp on them.

Other collectors seek additional "rubber stamps" or notations on the covers often used when some post office employee, not recognizing the frank, would place a "postage due 5¢" on the envelope. It is hard to conceive of the possibility of a widow free-franking one of her letters on the same day Congress granted the privilege to her; nevertheless, a specialist is now endeavoring to find among the envelopes of presidential widows if, by chance, there can be found any "first day franks."

We can now bring ourselves up to date with current history. When John Fitzgerald Kennedy was Senator, one could often find his printed or facsimile free frank on his envelopes. Now that he is President,

